

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 170322Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 475

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 3435

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NZ

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND ELECTIONS

REF: WELLINGTON 3413

1. RESULTS PUBLISHE NOV. 15 OF FINAL NATIONWIDE POLL CONDUCTED BY INDEPENDENT RESEARCH BUREAU PRIOR TO NOV. 29 ELECTIONS SHOWED NATIONAL'S PREVIOUSLY REPORTED LEAD OF 13 PERCENT OVER LABOUR CUT TO 2 PERCENT. WITH 19 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED STILL UNDECIDED, HOWEVER, POLL'S USEFULNESS IN GAUGING OUTCOME OF VOTE ON ELECTION DAY IS SEVERELY LIMITED. LATEST FIGURES ARE IN LINE WITH OPINION EXPRESSED BY SEVERAL SEASONED OBSERVERS THAT RACE WILL BE CLOSE, AND ARE CONSISTENT WITH EMOFFS' FINDINGS DURING RECENT VISITS THROUGH SOUTH AND NORTH ISLANDS (WELLINGTON'S 3246 AND 3304).

2. ACCORDING TO POLL, PM ROWLING'S RATING AS "MOST IMPRESSIVE LABOUR POLITICIAN" HELD AT ITS PREVIOUS 42 PERCENT, WHILE OPPOSITION LEADER MULDOON'S RATING AS "MOST IMPRESSIVE NON-LABOUR POLITICIAN" DROPPED FROM 40 TO 35 PERCENT. (SOCIAL CREDIT LEADER BEETHAM UPPED HIS
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STANDING FROM 13 TO 16 PERCENT).

3. IN FACE-TO-FACE TV INTERVIEW NOV. 16 ROWLING
AND MULDOON DEBATED IMMIGRATION, HOUSING, INFLATION
AND MANAGEMENT OF ECONOMY. NO FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES
BROACHED. AS IS HIS FASHION, ROWLING IN MOST INSTANCES
METHODICALLY SOUGHT TO DEFEND LABOUR'S RECORD AND
CAMPAIGN PROMISES AGAINST FORCEFUL CHALLENGES AND
INTERJECTIONS FROM MULDOON. WHILE HEATED AT TIMES,
DEBATE PLOUGHED LITTLE OR NO NEW GROUND ON ISSUES.
IT UNDOUBTEDLY DID REINFORCE PUBLIC'S IMPRESSIONS OF
THE TWO LEADERS' CONTRASTING STYLES AND PERSONALITIES.
BOTH COULD BE FAULTED BY DISPASSIONATE OBSERVER FOR
BEING LESS THAN PERSUASIVE ON NUMBER OF POINTS.
BOTH CONCLUDED THEIR PARTIES WOULD PREVAIL, ROWLING
BOASTING LABOUR WOULD WIN BIG AND MULDOON
CLAIMING NATIONAL WOULD ACHIEVE HEALTHY WORKING
MAJORITY.
SELDEN

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Message Attributes

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